

## **CP at Northfleet Technology College, Kent, UK**

Northfleet Technology College (NTC) is an all-boys foundation school, with a coeducational sixth form. Situated just outside London and the M25, the school is based in Northfleet, Kent and has 970 students on roll, including 197 sixth-form students. NTC benefits from a completely new school building, which has been designed to meet the needs of 21st century learners and opened in 2010.

NTC has been an IB World School since our CP authorization in May 2016. In 2012, the school was fortunate enough to begin teaching the CP as part of a Kent-wide pilot group. This enabled us to implement the CP before becoming an IB World School, working in partnership with an existing IB World School in Kent.

As a school, we were excited about the flexibility the CP could offer our students, and its suitability to our context and demographic. As the CP in our own school grows, we have seen our cohort sizes rise significantly from a group of 10 students in the first year, and moving ever closer to 50 percent of the sixth-form opting for CP in the next academic year.

NTC offers a total of eight DP subjects, accompanied by 11 career-related studies. These cover a range of specialisms from the creative arts (music, media, drama and photography) to science and engineering and business and finance.

We feel that the CP provides a viable alternative to the national system of A-levels, offering academic rigour, but with practical elements delivered through flexible vocational courses which is ideal for our students. Many of our first vocational courses offered were BTECs, however as the programme has evolved we have introduced even more alternatives, such as the Rockschool (RSL) Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners, which is contemporary, motivating and widely recognized.

Through teaching the CP core, we enable students to come together and develop into lifelong learners, who have the necessary skills to take them forward into whatever pathway they choose, whether that is continuing to university, apprenticeships or employment.

The core works as a fully embedded component to the students' timetables, and fits perfectly with the school's motto of "Going beyond to develop 21st century learners".

Throughout the two years, students take part in planning and running a number of events such as "Open Mic" nights and coffee mornings as a way of contributing to their service learning achievements. These events have the added benefit of helping to build bridges between IB students and those who have chosen a non-IB route in sixth form. Other service learning engagements include students supporting in lessons, being trained in restorative justice or working externally with outside organizations such as local youth clubs, school holiday clubs and working with the homeless at a local Sikh temple.

As part of a school pilot, some CP students have been chosen to complete their Arts Award in partnership with The Royal Opera House Bridge, investigating the links between the CP core and the Arts Award.

For Northfleet Technology College, the IB has impacted the whole school community, inspiring our termly "achievement assembly" themes which are now based on the IB learner profile. Elements of the IB learner profile are also reported on to parents of all year groups, and these attributes form the basis of learning conversations between students and form tutors, working in harmony with LORIC—a year 7 and 8 programme that looks at their leadership, organization, resilience, initiative and communication.

As more students and parents become familiar with the CP, and realize its potential for personalizing educational journeys, the cohorts continue to grow. We are excited to plan our next steps, developing the components of the core even further and continue to grow our exciting sixth form offer, tailored to meet our student's ever-changing needs.

Emma Campbell, IB Coordinator, Northfleet Technology